

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 606
By Davis

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lon H. Thorton, Sr.
Cocke County Board of Education member.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly and the citizens of Cocke County were saddened to learn of the death of Lon H. Thorton, Sr., who was a lifelong farmer and served admirably as a member of the school board for sixteen years, a period of phenomenal growth and many important changes in the school system; and

WHEREAS, the son of Joe and Arkansas Chambers Thorton, he was a distinguished 1932 graduate of Washington College Academy; and

WHEREAS, very popular among his employees and highly regarded by his employers, Mr. Thorton retired as plant manager at Stokely Van Camp in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thorton was a lifelong farmer who also raised polled Herefords on his Sevier and Jefferson county farms; to him the task of working on the land and producing quality animals was far more than a job: it was a challenge and a love; and

WHEREAS, he was one of the finest representatives of the exemplary two hundred year tradition of the "Volunteer State", diligently contributing his time and expertise as a valued member of the Sevier County Fair Board of Directors from 1943 until his death; Mr. Thorton served two terms on the Farm Bureau Board and had been an active member of the Cocke County Co-op since 1942; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thorton was one of the founders of Little League Baseball and refereed basketball until he was 54 years old; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thorton was a devout member of the Newport First United Methodist Church where he was president of the Men's Bible Class; and

WHEREAS, he was married for sixty blissful years to Gertrude Jones Thorton and his sons and daughters-in-law include Lon H. Jr. and Linda Thorton, Alger Jones and Margaret Thorton; his loving grandchildren were Lon H. Thorton III, Tonya Moyers, Heather Thorton, Kortney Thorton and John Thorton and he also had three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to remember and reflect fondly on the life of this outstanding public servant and professional and peerless community leader; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Lon H. Thorton, Sr., and express our condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.